

Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA)
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2017

The meeting was held at the Albany Elks Lodge #49, 25 South Allen Street, Albany, New York on January 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Dan Sleasman, President of the Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA), at 7:07 p.m.

D. Sleasman welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with a review of the previous BLNA meeting held December 13, 2016. The review included the following:

- Chief Cox addressed the one-way change on Friebel Avenue. There were many Tampa Avenue residents who were concerned about the increase in traffic that the change made on their street. Tampa Avenue residents spoke about their concerns and asked that Tampa Avenue be made a one-way street as well.

D. Sleasman stated that since the last meeting, it has been announced that Chief Cox will be leaving his position and Acting Chief Bob Sears will be installed. D. Sleasman said that the Tampa Avenue one-way will happen but we do not have a timeline for that yet. Also, speed humps need to be put in, but they will have to be studied first and then will be implemented if it makes sense.

It was announced that following the last BLNA meeting, the City Planning Department received a grant from the Transportation Committee to fund a traffic study in the 14th Ward. They will look at number of cars, speed, enforcement, etc.

D. Sleasman stated that in addition to traffic, it is apparent that vacant homes are a real issue for the neighborhoods. The process to deal with these homes is a long one and there is currently nothing to speed it up. Adam Zaranko from the Albany City Land Bank will speak about this at the March BLNA meeting.

A few people in attendance at the meeting said they would like to offer to hand out BLNA meeting flyers so others who don't know about the meetings will find out about them. They asked for the upcoming meeting flyer to hand out.

D. Sleasman then introduced Patricia Fahey, Assemblymember in the 109th Assembly District of the City of Albany.

Patricia Fahey said that she would like people to sign up for her information list so that we can stay updated about news coming from her office. Ms. Fahey stated that she lives near Albany Medical Center and is very much aware of the traffic in the neighborhoods. Ms. Fahey also noted the budget issues in the City, the need to alleviate the vacant housing issues and also replace infrastructure and light bulbs in street lamps that are out. Ms. Fahey spoke generally about the City of Albany and recent improvements that have been made by Mayor Sheehan, and also the

strength of the craft beverage industry, which is leading the State and is helping to boost the economy in the City.

Ms. Fahey discussed BLNA concerns, including the following:

- Ms. Fahey stated that she believes the City can lower the speed limit to 25 mph in certain areas, and she will talk with Acting Chief Sears about this.
- D. Sleasman asked if Ms. Fahey would advocate for the BLNA to get a highway entrance that doesn't go through the neighborhood, and Ms. Fahey responded that there are no easy solutions, but she will talk with the planning committee.
- D. Sleasman asked Ms. Fahey if the City takes into consideration the stress on the neighborhoods when they allow the area hospitals to expand. Ms. Fahey responded that yes, they do, but because the hospital expansions were transforming to the local neighborhoods in a positive way, they were allowed.
- Members present spoke with Ms. Fahey about the fact that the growth of the hospitals in particular has been very stressful on our neighborhoods, and we would like her to help us create solutions to the traffic problems and other problems that have been created because of this.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan attended the meeting, entering unannounced during Ms. Fahey's remarks at 7:55 p.m. Mayor Sheehan stated that she came to the meeting to make the following announcement: "We applied to the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) for an alternative study to help alleviate the issue of traffic. Our application was approved and we're looking at meeting on either January 23rd or 30th to conduct a real review of the traffic. The CDTC has the resources to do this and it is really great news that they are getting involved this way. This meeting is a critical first step. A tremendous amount of data is needed for the study."

Ms. Fahey stated that she will continue to help by working on the 25 mph speed limit in the neighborhoods, as well.

Following Mayor Sheehan's announcement, the New Business items were announced as follows:

- Request: can we look into getting flashing lights on the crosswalks like they have near Albany Medical Center?
- Membership: to help increase membership, can do get the "Next Door" app? It was also brought up that lawn signs might help to increase membership.
- Scott Jarzombek, Treasurer, gave a financial report of the BLNA to date, stating that the Association closed 2016 with \$304.75

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margie A. Sheehan, Secretary of the BLNA, 2016 term.